

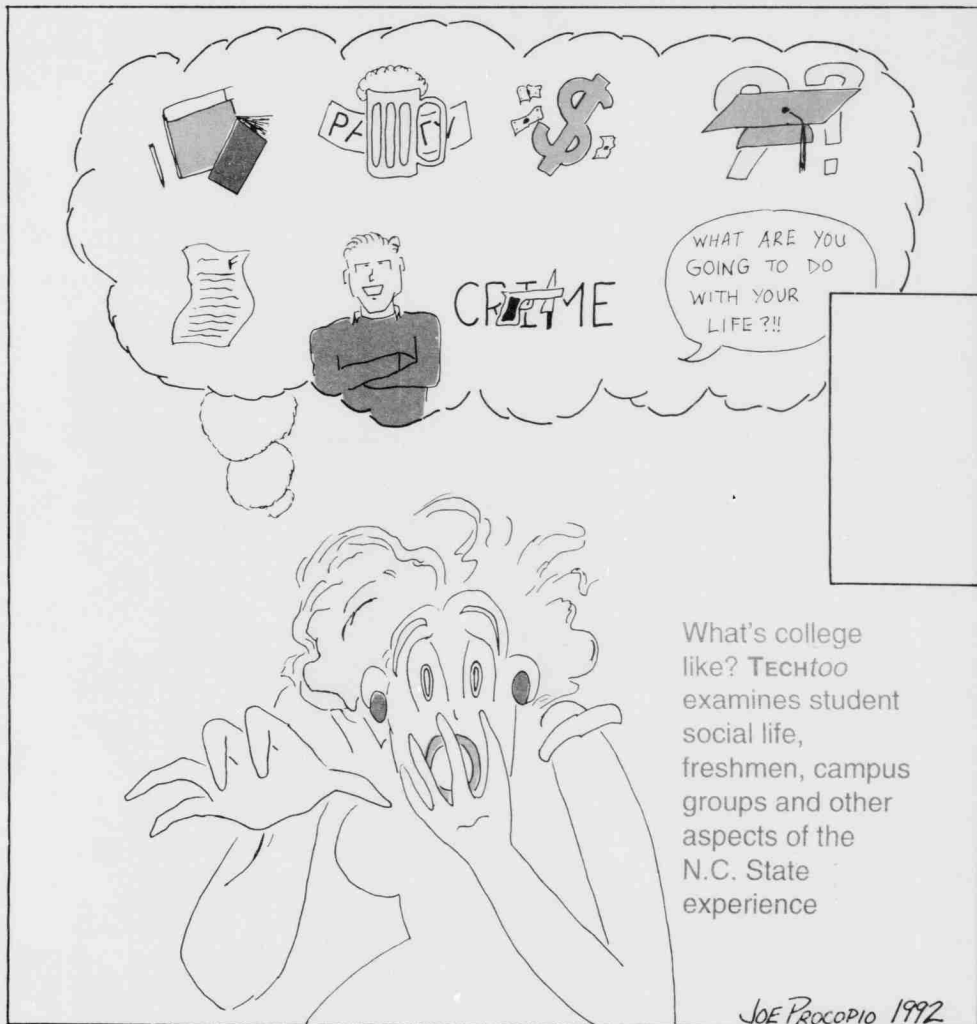
# Techtoo

North Carolina State University's Newspaper Since 1920

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What's college like? **TECHtoo** examines student social life, freshmen, campus groups and other aspects of the N.C. State experience

JOE PROCOPIO 1992

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**On the Cover**

For over a century, State students have made the best of the college life.

Illustration by Joe Procopio

To some, the word college conjures up images of stern professors, boring classes and all-night study sessions — not a pretty picture.

But when students realize the variety of classes the university offers, the diversity of teaching methods professors use, and learn new approaches to studying they can emerge from the academic doldrums with fresh winds in their sails.

Some engineers cringe at the thought of English classes, while humanities students fearfully face science courses, and everyone dreads PE 100.

Students don't always appreciate the university's attempts to make them well-rounded.

But students are liberated for at least a few credit hours by free electives. Students can take classes that open new doors and satisfy their interests. There's enough diversity in course offerings at N.C. State University to keep even the most eccentric of interests satisfied. NCSU offers everything from beekeeping to exotic foreign languages like Japanese, Russian and Swahili. The history department offers everything from 20th Century World History to U.S. Foreign Relations. Sports fanatics can find anything from tennis to water aerobics offered in the physical education department.

Free electives aren't the only source of enjoyment for a college student. Even required courses can be interesting with a good professor.

The professors at NCSU use a variety of teaching techniques. Many professors take the lecture and class-discussion approach. The professor starts a discussion on a given topic and then allows students to brainstorm ideas. But this method is only effective if students participate.

"The class that participates supports the professor in a big

# You can't always get what you want

## Choosing classes at NCSU is a challenge that can be overcome

By  
Maria McKinney

Staff Writer

way," said Mary Williams, an English professor. "It makes it very enjoyable and easy to teach."

Abraham Holtzman, a political science professor, takes a completely different approach to

his classes. Instead of lecturing, he asks students about the material they are studying.

"My job is to make them teach themselves," Holtzman said. "By calling on them, I give them

opportunities."

Holtzman uses this method to force his students "to talk and think because that's what life is all about." This method also largely depends on students.

"If a student is willing to put time and effort into this course it becomes effective," Holtzman said. "If [students] come out of the class challenged, then I think [the class] is a success."

Class size can also influence how effective a teaching method is. Holtzman's technique would be ineffective in a large class.

"In a large class it's hard to interrelate with students," Holtzman said. "In a large class one is dealing with an audience. I don't want an audience."

The lecture and discussion approach is also harder to incorporate into a large class. However, a small class does not make the job of teaching any less challenging.

"It may be more intimate," Williams said, "but not necessarily easier to teach."

Mark Wilson, a psychology professor new to NCSU, taught large classes at Iowa State University. In a large class the professor usually lectures and the students take notes.

"Lecturing is not a bad way to present things," Wilson said. "The best way [to teach] would be one student and one teacher, but we can't do that."

He can help personalize the class by learning each student's name though. "I'm bad with names," he explained. Wilson takes pictures of all the students and prints their names at the bottom. He then goes through them and learns the students' names.

Among students, study methods are as diverse as classes and teaching methods. Some students

See VARIETY, Page 11



**Large or Small?**  
Class size is a big issue for many students when it comes time to think about registering for classes.

Photos  
by  
Liz Mahnke



# From backflips to beer bong, find it at NCSU

By Michelle LeFavre

Staff Writer

Backflips down the Free Expression tunnel at night? This is how J.R. Robeson gets his kicks at N.C. State University. If this is not your idea of excitement on a Friday night, don't fret. "There are lots of things you can do — you can always find something," said senior Krista Whittington.

For those who are 21 years old, Hillsborough Street is the place to be and to be seen. There are many bars, each with its own appeal.

Looking to relax under the stars with a tall cool drink? The decks at The Cantina, Pantana Bobs, the new East Village and the porch at Spike's are perfect spots to hang out. Just sit on the lodge, take in the fresh night air, and perhaps enjoy the drink specials.

Bar/restaurants such as the Lookout, Mitch's and Bullwrinkles are great when you want to sit back and relax with friends. Of course, cold drinks and great food are also available. These are just a few of the places close to campus which people flock to for fun.

After hitting Hillsborough Street bars,



Technician File Photo

Hillsborough Street is just one of many hangouts for N.C. State students.

many wander up the stairs to the Five-O to groove to dance music. The DJ takes requests — you'll hear anything from ABBA to Prince. Whether you like cold drinks, good music, a place to relax or all of the above, Hillsborough Street has the

answer.

Even if you live in a dorm and if you don't have a fake ID, a social life is possible — believe it or not! Margaret Fenwick, a freshman in Lee dorm, used to frequent bars on Hillsborough Street until

two weeks into the semester when her fake ID was taken away. She won't be able to get back into these bars for a few years, but she's not too worried. "I've found that you don't need an ID to have fun at State. There are plenty of other things to do."

Hillsborough Street is not only for those of legal drinking age. Clubs like Barry's and ACC Tavern allow people under 21 a place to dance the night away. There are also numerous restaurants and movie theaters in walking distance.

Back on campus, the Student Center and Annex offer games, concerts, movies and other events of interest to students. If nothing else, you can party in your dorm with roommates and create your own excitement for the evening.

Not everyone is interested in the bar scene. Some students opt for gathering with friends in the comfort of their own home. Home entertainment can include renting movies, watching television or even a little partying.

Often these small gatherings can develop into much more when word gets

See INITIATION, Page 11

## Have an interest? NCSU probably has a group for you

### Techtoo Staff Report

Students interested in extracurricular activities have a wealth of choices at N.C. State University. With options ranging from rugby to foreign language clubs to student publications, there is something to satisfy practically every interest.

And the best thing is that in most cases, all you have to do to become involved is ask. Few student groups turn prospective members away.

At Technician, for instance, new staffers can usually begin work right away. In fact, some of the stories in this issue were written by new writers.

Some of the groups eager to find new members are:

•Foreign language clubs. These

groups give students a chance to practice a language other than English. People with all levels of knowledge of the language show up, often including native speakers.

To find out more about one, ask your instructor or the Foreign Language Department.

•Club and intramural sports. Club sport teams play intercollegiately, but without scholarships or long road trips. At NCSU, fencing and rugby are two of the club sports.

The Physical Education Department handles intramural sports, which let almost anyone interested participate in games and tournaments against other campus teams or individuals. There are a wide variety of sports to choose from, with

football and basketball among the most popular.

Carmichael Gym is the place to go to find out about either club or intramural sports.

•Student political groups. Each major party and candidate has a student group somewhere at NCSU working diligently for the cause.

To join one of these groups, students need to look for campus ads. The ads are often in the form of notices on bulletin boards or in the Crier section of Technician.

•Religious organizations. Almost all Christian denominations, as well as the Jewish, Muslim and other faiths,



Technician File Photo

Student Government is one of the dozens of campus groups.

See CAMPUS Page 11

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In the best of cases, school is a frightening experience. For minority groups, the college experience can be much more intimidating.

Blacks make up about nine percent of the undergraduate population at N.C. State University. That comes out to 2,400 students out of 27,000, a relatively small number.

NCSU is committed to providing positive action to ensure equal opportunities for all of the people within its community. To this end, there are several programs available at N.C. State that benefit minority students.

Located in the Student Center Annex, the African-American Cultural Center provides black students with a chance to learn about their heritage. Since its opening in January 1991, the AACCC has been expanding and developing.

Dr. Iya-Ilu Moses, director of the cultural center, emphasized that the center is available for the growth and education of all NCSU residents.

"The program is for the benefit of all students. While the activities may focus on the African-American experience, they are open to everyone," Moses said.

Presently, the center contains a reading library with a few hundred books. The program hopes to develop this into a larger, more extensive check-out library.

The second floor contains an art gallery. Each year, the gallery will exhibit four to six pieces of black art.

The center also sponsors a monthly lecture series and is responsible for special activities like the Martin Luther King Festival. The African-American Heritage Society operates from the center and assists in the academic development of students by bolstering their study skills and test-taking abilities. The African-American Cultural Center is also peripherally involved with the Wake County African-American Educational Advocacy.

The cultural center is open from about 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., although people can often be found there outside of these hours.

Another set of programs for minority students is sponsored by Student Development.

"In general, Student Development covers extracurricular and leadership development activities for students," said Dr. Rhonda Covington. Covington is the head of African-American Student Affairs, a division of Student Development which serves "the particular needs and interests of African-Americans to try to nurture their development and encourage them toward success."

African-American Student Affairs sponsors three principal programmatic thrusts.

## Black students on campus finding big problems — and golden opportunities

By

T. Shawn Long

Assistant Techfoo Editor



Technician file photo

Minority students at NCSU sometimes feel they're receiving a cold shoulder from administration and fellow students, but most keep moving forward.

The first is the Peer-Mentor Program. This program assigns upper-class black students to serve as mentors to entering black students. These peer mentors help make the incoming students feel

welcome and provide a support structure for them. The peer mentors also assist the entering students in getting involved in campus and provide strategies for social and academic success at NCSU.

The Peer-Mentor Program is presently concluding its tenth year. "We are excited about moving into another decade of encouraging success and graduation," Covington said.

The second program under AASA is the African-American Student Advisory Council. This program mainly provides leadership development experience for students.

The final program is the National Panhellenic Council. This is a society whose members represent the best interests of the eight black fraternities and sororities involved. These Greek organizations include the four fraternities Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Phi Beta Sigma and Omega Psi Phi, and the four sororities Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Sigma Gamma Rho and Zeta Phi Beta.

Another subsidiary of Student Development which targets minority groups is the NCSU Women's Center. The women's center serves as a multicultural resource and referral center for the NCSU campus and surrounding community.

The women's center is currently in the first phase of it's development. It provides meeting space for events and activities related to women's issues, as well as providing information and referral services for students. The center also provides counseling for rape, assault and sexual harassment victims.

In the future, the women's center plans to expand its programming and provide services for faculty and staff. Eventually, the center will become a source of research on women's issues and equity services.

The center presently offers a support group and lecture series for African-American women called the Sista 2 Sista Network. The Sista 2 Sista Network is a monthly program made of two components.

The first component is a lecture and discussion, open to anyone interested, which meets on a Wednesday night from 7:30-9:30 in the multipurpose room of the African-American Cultural Center. The second component is the actual network meeting. This meeting is for women only and occurs one week after the lecture and discussion in the NCSU Women's Center.

In addition to these programs, several student organizations exist for the benefit of students from specific ethnic backgrounds. These include the Egyptian, Vietnamese, Japanese, and Native American Student Associations, as well as many others.

For more information about these programs, contact the African-American Cultural Center at 515-5210 or Student Development at 515-3835.

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# Handicapped like me: A few hours in a wheelchair increases understanding

By Jeff Drew

Staff Writer

The sweat oozed out of my pores in sporadic spurts synchronized with the strain of my movements. My hands gripped passionately with the metal, turning jet black from their encounters with the rubber. The pain shot up my arms in flashes, then dwindled out to a dull ache in my shoulders. The wheels struggled to move.

I was sitting on the great slope of the Brickyard, trying in vain to push my wheelchair up the incline. I had decided to trek in a wheelchair from the Technician offices in the Student Center Annex to my 224 Modern English class in Tompkins Hall. It was beginning to look like I had made a major mistake.

I had wanted to experience and then describe the obstacles wheelchair-bound students face on our lovely West Raleigh campus. I had ended up stuck on a hill.

"Uh, Bill, I think I got a problem here," I said to Bill Overton, who had graciously agreed to spot me and keep me from killing myself on my journey. "I got no damn traction,

my wheels keep spinning on this damn brick."

Bill flashed me a look of indignation and resumed his post behind the wheels. Having already saved me once from a similar predicament on my journey, Bill appeared to accept this as his designated role and silently pushed me up the slope. I bit my lip in frustration.

It's not that I expected my sojourn across campus to be simple. I had written a few articles on the accessibility situation at N.C. State University, and through my interviews — with disabled students, I had gotten a pretty good idea that wheelchair navigation at NCSU was no easy ride.

As a result, I was prepared for the sweat and the dirt and the pain. I knew it would be sheer torture for a spoiled pedestrian such as myself to adjust to the limitations of the wheelchair and the indifference of the terrain. I knew the hills would offer me no mercy and the curbs — in some cases — no safe passage. I was prepared to suffer.

But I wasn't prepared to fail. As I sat there stranded and exhausted on the masonry ridge

in front of the Library, I began to realize that without Bill's Samaritan efforts, I might have remained on that slope for the rest of my natural life. Of course, that's an exaggeration for me —

I could have just gotten up and walked away. But for many disabled people on this campus, getting stuck on a hill would be a very real predicament.

One such individual is Greg Jones. A Spring 1992 graduate in mass communications, Jones toiled for two years on the roads, sidewalks and brickyards that line our urban university. Of all the people I know, he is the foremost expert on life in a wheelchair at NCSU.

"Good grief, are you all right?" Jones asked the day after my experience. "That hill by the library is very hard in a wheelchair. Fortunately I've got the upper-body strength to handle it, but it's still very hard to get up it."

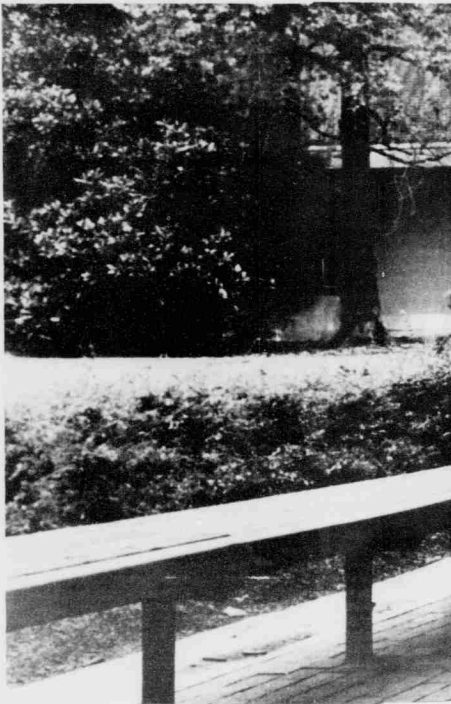
As I talked with Jones last Friday, I wished I had gotten in touch with him before I took my trip. It seems that the route I took — up Dan Allen, through the greenhouses and Gardner passes to the Brickyard, up the hill around Patterson and down to Tompkins — was not exactly a wise choice.

"I would have gone past Owen, Tucker and Turlington and through the Student Center to the back. Then I would have gone in front of Reynolds and up by the Triad, over the Pullen Bridge and over to Tompkins," Jones said. "On most days it would have taken me about 15 to 20 minutes to make the trip. But if I really pushed it I could probably make it in 10."

Ten minutes, from Technician to Tompkins. Most people, including me, couldn't make it on foot in ten minutes using one of the tunnels, which are wheelchair inaccessible. Even with Bill's help, it took me 35 minutes to negotiate my way across a more direct, though more difficult, route. To wheel from southwest campus to the northeast corner in 10 minutes just seems mind-boggling.

Jones says the key is upper-body strength and experience, two attributes I was sorely lacking in Thursday. While I struggled with traction, inclines and the wheelchair itself, Jones, who can bench press 345 pounds, has powered through most obstacles fairly routinely.

"I've been very fortunate in



Distances which once looked short take on new dimensions for Drew, who tried un-



Tim Moore/Staff

Drew struggles to use a waterfountain in the Student Center Annex outside the Technician offices. The building opened in 1990.

that I possess the upper-body strength to hold doors open with one hand while wheeling through with my left hand," said Jones, noting yet another skill I was unable to duplicate. "I can handle most hills because of my upper-body strength. I've lifted weights and I've been in a wheelchair literally since I was a kid so I should be pretty good at it."

But despite his expertise, Jones still encounters problems because, as I discovered, pushing a wheelchair can be an inherently dangerous situation.

Take, for instance, the relative instability of the vehicle. While it may look stable with its four wheels and assorted attachments, it is actually rather tricky to maneuver.

A bad lean on a curb, for example, can flip you over backwards and land you on your head. Or a sudden loss of leverage can send you sliding down an incline and into the street. It's just not easy to maneuver that thing on uneven

surfaces.

And then there's the metal protruding out all over the chair. I cut my left thumb when I repeatedly rubbed up against the brake dash as I pushed up a hill. With Jones, the problem came from another area.

"You know that area between the wheel and the metal," Jones asked, referring to a small gap in the wheel structure. "I've gotten my hand caught in there several times and believe me, it hurts."

Along with blood and pain, I found the excessive grime one accumulates pushing a wheelchair to be extremely annoying. After substituting my hands for brake pads on the long downhill slope behind Tompkins, I discovered that the wheels can distribute an appreciable amount of dirt on your body in a very short period. In just a few seconds, my palms were a chalky black that I soon smeared across my face as I wiped the sweat off my brow.

A disgusting mess when I arrived at Tompkins, I ventured

# University working for better access

By Jeff Drew  
Staff Writer

Efforts are underway to improve handicap accessibility at N.C. State University.

Under the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act passed by Congress January 26, NCSU officials have launched a plan designed to systematically open doors previously closed to the mobility impaired on campus.

"Under the federal legislation, you were required to have a transition plan ready by July 26 of this year. Then you have two years to complete the work," Assistant Vice Chancellor for Facilities Charles Leffler said recently.

The ADA provisions specify that NCSU cannot discriminate against the handicapped by allowing physical structures to deny them access to public services.

"There are a set of criteria that specify what has to be done. There has to be reasonable accommodations. If it's unreasonable to make a facility accessible, we can simply move the service to an accessible location," Leffler said. "The law isn't about making building accessible; it's about making services accessible. If we have to move a particular service to make it accessible, we'll do that."

We've done this for years working with Handicapped Services with individual student's schedules. If that student had a class in an unaccessible building we would move it to an accessible location."

So far, much of the transition work has taken place under the supervision of the Physical Plant and Housing and Residence Life divisions. Wheelchair ramps have been installed at several central campus dorms and work has also been done at E.S. King Village to improve accessibility, according to assistant director for facilities for Housing and Residence Life Hanny A. Younes.

"We just completed a ramp at Alexander and put one in at Turlington over the summer," Younes said. "We're putting in two ramps at the Tucker Beach renovations, one at Tucker and one at Owen."

Younes said that Housing and Residence Life is planning to make Bowen, Metcalf and Carroll Halls accessible, but the projects' cost could delay the start of the projects. The final prices tag of the Tucker Beach project was estimated to be \$48,000 while the Turlington and Alexander Hall ramps will

See PROJECTS, Page 11

successfully to cross campus in a wheelchair. A brick-covered hill would eventually stop him.

into another perpetually difficult wheelchair area, the bathroom. Actually, I never made it inside the porcelain playground because of my recurring door disability. Just the thought of maneuvering around the suddenly head-high sinks and labyrinthine toilets was enough to bolt me out of the chair and into the lavatory on foot.

Of course, true wheelchair navigators don't enjoy the option I employed and have to negotiate as best as they can. According to Jones, that process isn't too difficult once you get used to it.

"I haven't had too much trouble with most of the bathrooms on campus because I'm somewhat mobile and I can get around most obstacles," Jones said. "I've even used the bathroom on the first floor of Bragaw and that one's a monster. There's a partition right in front of the toilet so you have to get out of the chair and maneuver around the partition. Now, that's pretty hard."

Nevertheless, improved

bathroom access is not the most pressing concern for Jones. More curb cuts and better building accessibility are the essentials he craves for his university visits.

"We definitely need more curb cuts," Jones said, designating the sidewalks east and west of the library as problem areas. "There are also a lot of buildings that are hard to get into. I was lucky because as a communications major most of my classes were in Winston and Thompkins. But I did have classes in Riddick and Withers. At Withers, I could only go in a back entrance and I had to use a freight elevator, which of course is illegal."

Another campus addition that would improve handicap mobility would be an accessibility tunnel. A 20-30 foot structure with access ramps and handrails, the tunnel would offer the disabled a more direct route to class and easier transport to and from the gym.

Unfortunately, the \$20-30 million price tag on the project will probably prevent tunnel

construction from even being considered during the current budget crunch. As a result, the wheelchair bound at NCSU will continue to trek up Dan Allen and Pullen roads, around the tunnels they cannot use and the buildings they cannot enter.

I will not be joining the Greg Jones's of N.C. State in their struggle. Like most of you, I will walk through the tunnels and use the stairs, and take advantage of what so many of us take for granted.

And maybe because I sampled their impediments, I'll have a better appreciation of the simple gifts I possess. But probably not.

I can never truly empathize with the disabled because I have never truly been in their position. My limitations in the wheelchair were self-made and self-serving and I knew it. The reality of their situation was never imposed on me.

And though I have great admiration for their perseverance, I hope it never is.

Tim Moore/Staff



Ann Kenion/Staff

Recent graduate Greg Jones knows how to get around on wheels.



# Freshmen strive to fit in, flourish in an alien environment

By Andrew Lloyd  
Staff Writer

The beginning of every school year breeds one of the most transient creatures known to man: Freshmen.

Freshmen find themselves suddenly shifted from their stable high school environment, removed from parents, teachers and peers.

North Carolina State University thrusts freshmen into an environment of thousands of students, faculty, maintenance workers, parties and classes.

Jason Hoke is one of those freshmen and his primary concern is classes and a good starting GPA. An aerospace engineering major, Hoke said he wants "a good education, a firm foundation to get to know some people, and to be independent."

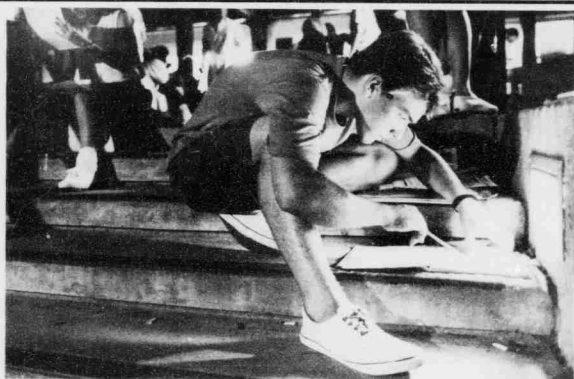
His chemistry and calculus class are his biggest concern so far this semester. Hoke, whose graduating class consisted of only 30 students, feels swamped by the large number of students attending NCSU.

As a participant in the Freshman Experience Program, he feels insulted by the small dorm rooms of Metcalf, as compared to the larger dorm rooms on campus.

Hoke's family lives in New York City, but he feels college is an opportunity "to get to know some people, to be independent."

Another freshman, Barbara Williams, is also worried about classes and does not know what to expect for her first tests.

Williams also worries about rape on campus, especially after a man frightened her and a friend one night when they were



Technician file photo

**Freshman Orientation:** An annual college tradition brings in more new students every year.

walking to the Women's Center. Williams hadn't heard about the Student Patrol Officers, a Public Safety Program that escorts students across campus during the night.

About freshman courses, she feels that English 111 was a step down from high school, where she had been writing literary papers, instead of now writing composition papers.

Unlike some freshmen whose friends are scattered, Williams meets one of her former classmates practically every day.

See **FRESHMEN**, Page 11

# Psst! Hey, kid! Seniors offer wisdom of age to freshmen

By Mark Tosczak  
Staff Writer

College presents a dilemma for most freshmen. On one hand, they have new-found freedom from parents and other forces which kept them in check through their growing-up years. But that same freedom also brings some fear and insecurity; parents aren't as readily available to lean on for most freshmen.

Balancing these two new aspects of life can be a tough thing to do, but some students who have been at N.C. State University for a few years have some advice for those wild, woolly and sometimes

rambunctious freshmen. So if you just got here, listen up.

One thing seniors made clear in their discussions with Technician: remember why you're here — to get an education.

"I think it's important to realize what's important in college," said Chrismonds, a senior in English. "Always go to class no matter how drunk, hung-over or unprepared you are."

"Get to know your teacher on a first-name basis," said Tara Minter, a senior in political science. "I don't know if it'll help in the grade or not, sometimes it does, and if you turn out to be one of their better students you have a reference for the future."

Students who have taken the class or had the professor before can also help.

"It's a good thing if you can find upperclassmen who have taken that class before under that teacher," Minter said. From them you can get old tests, advice on what a professor is like and other valuable information.

"It's OK to take some extra time that first year and really get your studies down and later on get involved," said Pam Gibson, a senior in political science and Spanish. "I think that's what made my time here at State so enjoyable, not the academics but the extracurriculars."

Gibson said freshmen should keep in mind that they can't do

everything immediately. Some freshmen go wild their first year, trying to juggle school, extracurricular activities and a heavy dose of partying.

"Everyone's got to have a crazy period," Hondross said. "It's important to get it out of your system early. Four years isn't a long time and you'll want to take advantage of as much extracurricular activities as you can."

NCSU has more than 100 officially-recognized students groups, and all the seniors Technician talked to brought up the importance of getting involved.

"Shop around," Minter said. "There are so many organizations around here. Just

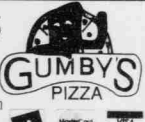
get into a little bit of everything until you find out what you want to do."

Maybe the most important thing for freshmen to remember is not to be afraid while they are trying to fit in.

"Learn how to ask for help," Minter said. "It seems like an easy thing to do but it isn't. I don't care how small it is, what the problem is, learn how to go to someone who knows and ask for help."

NCSU can be a tough school if, in a desire to fit in, you don't ask for help.

"That's something [freshmen] have to get over really quickly if they're going to make it here at all," Minter said.

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# Living at home may not give complete experience

By Mark Schaffer  
Staff Writer

I'm sick of Raleigh.

Now, don't get in an uproar. I do like the city and the people, by and large, but everyone needs some change now and again. I have been living in Raleigh since the summer of 1984 and attended high school locally at Athens Drive. And ever since I started living here, I wanted to attend N.C. State University.

I got my wish. After sending off applications to other universities "just in case," according to my Dad, I was accepted and happy to come to the university. The only problem was how local it was to my parents. They wanted me to live at home while I was going to school. At the time, this seemed fine. But as I got closer and closer to my first day and talked to all my friends about their living on campus (NCSU and others), I soon regretted my decision. But it was too late to change it.

I made it through that first year OK. I got along with my parents and classes didn't seem too bad yet. And I hoped to get onto campus for the next year when my best friend from high school would start here.

Things did not work out that way. Once

you've rejected the university's freshman housing, it is virtually impossible to get onto the campus. University Towers didn't exist yet, and I certainly didn't have the money to get my own place. So, back to square one, living at home.

I had a good home life. I got along very well with my parents. They weren't very restrictive, by and large. They're very good people but trying to explain to them the difference between living at home and living on campus and why I wanted to do it, well, it was impossible.

They thought the idea was foolish with them living in Raleigh. This was completely opposite of my friend's parents who, living just a few blocks from mine, insisted their son live on campus. Such is life.

My sophomore year was good. I was only in Raleigh for one semester before co-opting in the spring in Charlotte. I think the change of scenery was the only thing that saved me that year. I lived with some of the people I worked with, and it was good enough, for a semester. Even a temporary return to Raleigh for summer school didn't dampen my spirits.

Fall of that year was the best ever. I was back in Charlotte, in a place of my own. Just me. And it was the best time I ever had. I felt I could finally relax, which I

never felt in Raleigh.

Coming home after Christmas was quite a letdown, but to have the place I had in Charlotte, I couldn't save enough to get my own place during school. So, back to the parents.

Some people have told me that it would be a great deal to be able to live at home during college and not have to worry about all the hassles of rent and other bills. Maybe they're right, but I much more enjoy being out on my own and being responsible for myself. Maybe I wouldn't want to get out of this town so fast if I had managed to live away some of the time during my classes.

One more work session in Charlotte in the summer of 1991 was the last respite before facing school for two years straight. Home again.

Fall was OK until I began dating someone. It is extremely difficult to go out with someone when it ends up being a problem for them to come to where you live, as I found out not too far along into this relationship. Spring was hell — too many classes, too many involvements and too much going on at home.

When you come home, you are supposed to be able to relax and be yourself. Well, when I went home, I was more stressed, more nervous and

extremely apprehensive. And now that the fall has rolled around again, I am still a home after an abortive try at getting my own place. Unfortunately, I didn't have quite enough money to pull it off, and attempts at getting a roommate fell through.

So now I'm faced with one final year of living at home under stressful circumstances. As if the senior year is not stressful enough.

My story is probably a bit extreme, but for a someone to grow as a person, they must have change. One of the best ways to cause change is to put yourself into a totally new situation, such as living away from home.

When you are out on your own, you must become a responsible person. You must be able to manage your money. You must become more mature. Yes, you must begin to grow up and get ready to face the real world. College is geared to do that if more than just educating you for a job; it also offers the opportunity to get away even if it is only two miles away, as in my case.

Don't do what I did. Take advantage of every one of your opportunities, and you will be better for it in the long run. And you will probably have more fun in the short run, too.

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# Housing available to fill most needs

By John Harrington  
Staff Writer

Students at N.C. State University find that their housing is a learning experience in itself. Residence halls, apartments and other facilities offer varying lessons on self-reliance and living with roommates. Such lessons prove to be invaluable later in life.

For most students at NCSU, their first experience away from home comes in the form of residence halls. Residence halls are operated by the university through the department of Housing and Residence Life. Each hall is staffed with students working for this department who try to encourage a sense of community by sponsoring activities and programs in their hall and between halls. These staff members help to ensure that residence hall policies are being enforced in order to try to provide a pleasant and friendly atmosphere for their residents. There are 19 residence halls on campus, housing a total of 6,164 students. Of these, 2,539 are new freshmen. The remaining 3,623 are returning students and new transfers.

Sean McIntosh, an electrical engineering junior, said that "dorms are a direct route to campus social life, and the accessibility to classes is a definite consideration."

David Carrell, a freshman in animal science, said that despite the fact that he doesn't have air conditioning, "It's no big deal. My R.A. allows us a reasonable amount of freedom and the

necessity of having to live in close quarters with others soon turns into friendship."

Michelle Bowen, a sophomore in agricultural education, said that financially, dorms are much more reasonable and convenient. "It's nice only having to pay once and not worrying about monthly rent and utility payments."

Some interviewed had problems with noisy neighbors. "I think it is a good transition into campus social life, but as far as academics is concerned, it's not the best environment for learning," said Theresa Murphy, a junior in agricultural education. "Even in the designated study areas, you had to fight to concentrate. The freedom and privacy of an apartment is definitely worth the extra money."

NCSU offers 300 apartments in E.S. King Village for married students, single parents and graduate students. These apartments are also run by Housing and Residence Life, like the residence halls.

About 520 students are staying in fraternity and sorority houses. Drew Smith, the Assistant Director of Student Development, said "Greek life offers a great lesson in community living in a supportive family environment." One fraternity student said that "you have a lot of the social interaction of the dorms without as many restrictions." Twenty fraternities and four sororities maintain chapter houses. Fifteen of these, 13 fraternities and two sororities, are located on



Technician file photo

How well a student can study in a residence hall depends partly on the things in the room. This student's computer work and study station helps him keep up with his classwork.

Fraternity Court, a university-owned project on Varsity Drive.

There seems to be no shortage of other apartments around the NCSU area, and if the mid-day patrons of Wolfline are any indication, there seems to be no shortage of students to fulfill them. All the students interviewed were pleased with their apartments. Loc Tran, a junior in civil engineering, lives at Kingsland Townhouse. "My apartment is more spacious, less noisy, and I can cook what I want. And it's nice having A.C. during those hot months."

Shelley Kitrell, a graduate

student in political science at Kensington Park, said that she had a pleasant dorm experience, but likes apartment life much better. "Besides the increased freedom and privacy, it's nice knowing you don't have to clean out all your belongings everytime a break or a holiday comes around." For students living far away from home, this can be quite an inconvenience.

A partial list of available apartments and houses around campus can be found in the Housing Assignments Office, room 1112 Pullen Hall.



Larry Dixon/Staff

A student hands a load to his roommate at Turlington Residence Hall.

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# Initiation to NCSU nightlife just a party away

Continued from Page 4

out. A prime example of a low-budget party that resulted in a large mess is the incident on Bram Road just a few weeks ago. This gathering served as an initiation for many into the social scene in Raleigh.

On the N.C. State campus, there are clubs, fraternities, sororities and many other groups that offer students excellent opportunities to meet others and

get involved. Fraternities and sororities have events such as pizza parties, dinners, mixers, football game dates and formal dinners throughout the semester.

On Fraternity Court, boards of students migrate on Friday and Saturday nights to party and listen to up-and-coming local bands. All these events provide a diversion from the everyday routine. Get involved in a club, fraternity, or one of the campus groups and your social calendar is sure to be filled.

Perhaps the largest social gatherings of the fall semester takes place at football games. People kick out their own celebrations hours before the red and white of N.C. State even hits the grass of Carter-Finley.

Tailgating parties begin as early as 9 a.m. for 1 p.m. kickoffs. Tailgating can range anywhere from a simple bucket of chicken and a cooler to an elaborate feast with a grill and a picnic table. People decked out in red and white come out to eat, drink,

throw footballs and just get psyched before entering the gates. Others dress to impress in blouses and ties or sundresses and hats.

No matter your tastes in food or clothing, anything goes at the game — as long as you cheer for the Pack to win. If you have not experienced a football game on a bright, sunny Saturday afternoon yet, you must go before the season ends!

Next time you find yourself sitting at home on a Friday night

— don't despair. Get up! Call your friends, and get out there! There is so much you can do. Whether you hit the bars, hang out on campus or just relax with friends after a long week of classes, make the most of your time.

Your days at N.C. State can be the best and most enjoyable of your life. So, if you are in need of a social life, you don't have to look far. Start now — it may be just around the corner.

## Campus groups provide many ways to get involved

Continued from Page 4

have worship services and other meetings on or near campus.

The best way to find a group which fits your needs is to call Student Services.

•Major or professional groups. These clubs can give you a broader and more practical experience than you would receive from classes alone.

Your major department can give you

more information.

•Student media. Students may work for the newspaper, radio station, yearbook or other publications. Jobs include everything from writing and photography to being a late-night disc jockey or a page layout artist.

To work for a student publication, you should come by its office and apply. Most student publications are based on the third floor of the Student Center Annex.

•Fraternities and sororities. Being Greek gives you a chance to meet lots of people and to make lasting friendships.

Unlike most other student groups, fraternities and sororities are often selective in choosing new members, and they generally only admit "rushes" during certain times of the year. To find out more, you should contact the group you are interested in joining or look for campus advertising.

There are many other groups to meet other interests you may have. And if you can't find what you want, then you're free to try to start your own group.

Extracurricular activities at NCSU can be fun and can give you valuable experience, as well as stuff to put on your resume. And anyone can join almost any group they're interested in. College is the best, and perhaps the only, time to take advantage of such a situation.

## Variety important in classes

Continued from Page 3

study daily, learning the material a little at a time.

"There's always a chance, when you try to study something all at once, that you won't have time," said freshman April Hammonds. Shavale Godwin, a sophomore, takes a different perspective on studying.

"Right before a test I stay up late cramming," Godwin said. "I guess they call it short-term memory when you can pull up something real fast. I think cramming's OK."

Some students have strange quirks about studying. Junior Erin Maynard is unable to study unless she's listening to music. "Silence is a distraction to me," Maynard said. "Music makes the environment not so intimidating."

Some students are unable to study effectively unless they are in a certain place in their room.

"I like to study on my bed," said freshman Michelle Owen. "It helps me get a good night's sleep."

## Projects

Continued from Page 7

cost the university \$26,000 and \$22,000 respectively, according to Younes. Housing and

Residence Life accessibility projects include the addition of at least one handicapped accessible apartment at E.S. King Village and curb cuts on the Dan Allen-Bragaw crosswalk, Younes said.

In non-housing projects, numerous curb cuts have been made at various locations around campus and access to

certain buildings have been improved. According to the Leffler, the renovations are following a pattern set by the university.

"What we're trying to do is get them on campus and then get them from their cars to the building, and then get them in the building and to the services," Leffler said.



## Freshmen

Continued from Page 8

Many students who graduate from high school aren't always sure where they are going. Williams, however, had expected to attend college. Williams also doesn't have any problems with being separated from her parents.

"Since it is still early in the semester, most freshmen don't have a clear notion of everything they will go through their freshman year."

Sophomore Brian Rulifson advises freshman to hit the books hard their first semester so they will have a high starting GPA. But he doesn't think they should ignore other campus events. Rulifson said that one of the most memorable events of his freshman year was the taking of Hillsborough Street the night NCSU beat UNC-Chapel Hill in basketball.

Another sophomore, Erick Weinzapfel, found the partying to be one of the most memorable experiences, but that it also can get too excessive.

Faculty also take note of the differences between freshmen and upperclassmen.

Deborah Vause, a lecturer in the English department, noticed that freshmen are nervous in their first semester because they don't know what to do with themselves.

Robert Ramsay, a professor in the Math Department, sees that freshmen are more timid than upperclassmen when it comes to speaking up in class.

Vause said that, coming from high school, "freshmen are more inclined to see teachers as friends," whereas she felt that upperclassmen go in other directions to obtain help.

Vause also felt that freshmen show more enthusiasm because the college scene is new to them, and that they are not jaded, like their upperclassmen.



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